Chapter 53

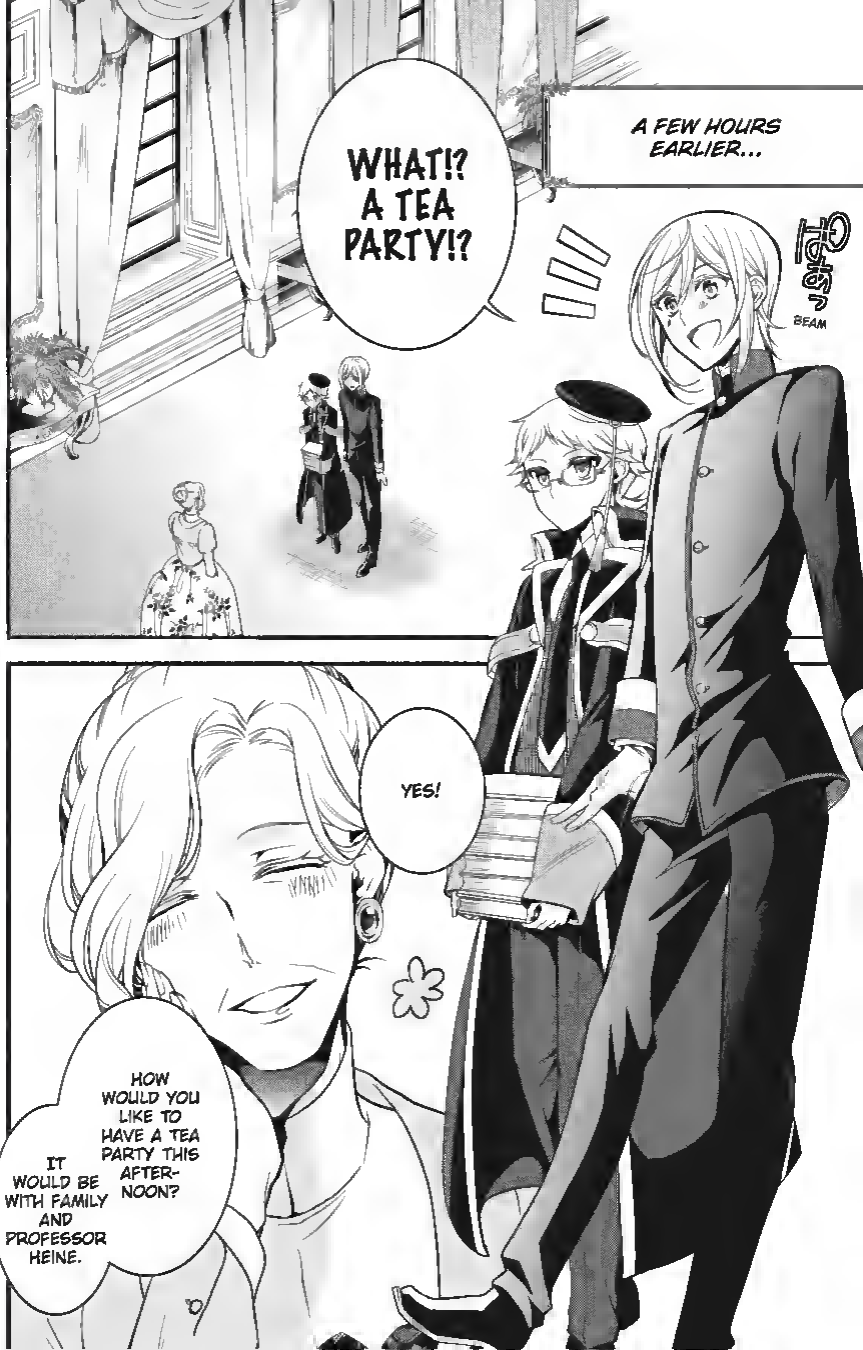
THE ROYAL TUTOR

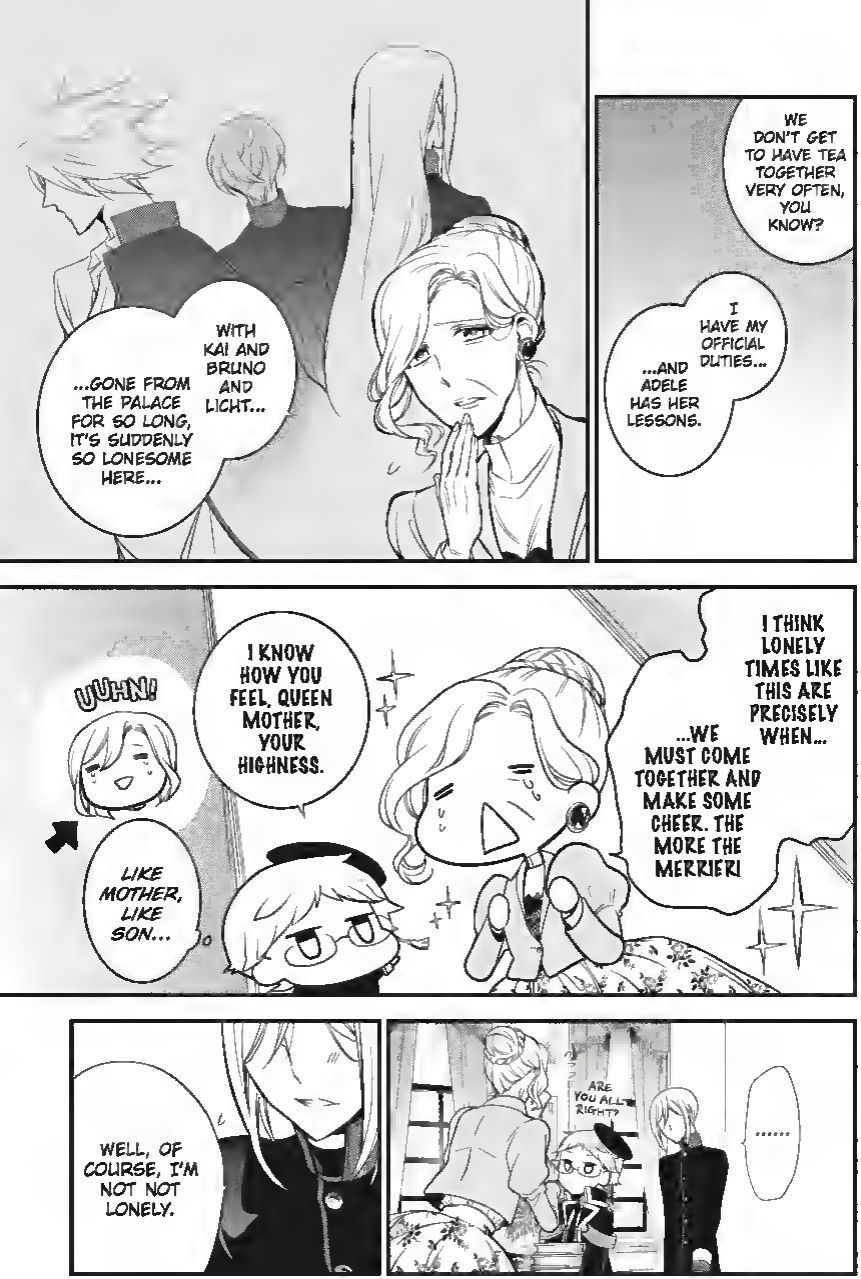
Higasa Akai

WORRY.
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
...WHY...
...AM I HERE...?
STAARE
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HAPPENING HERE...?

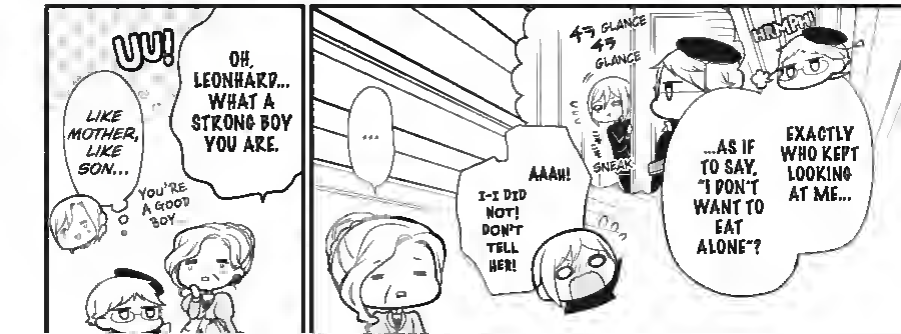
Chapter 53

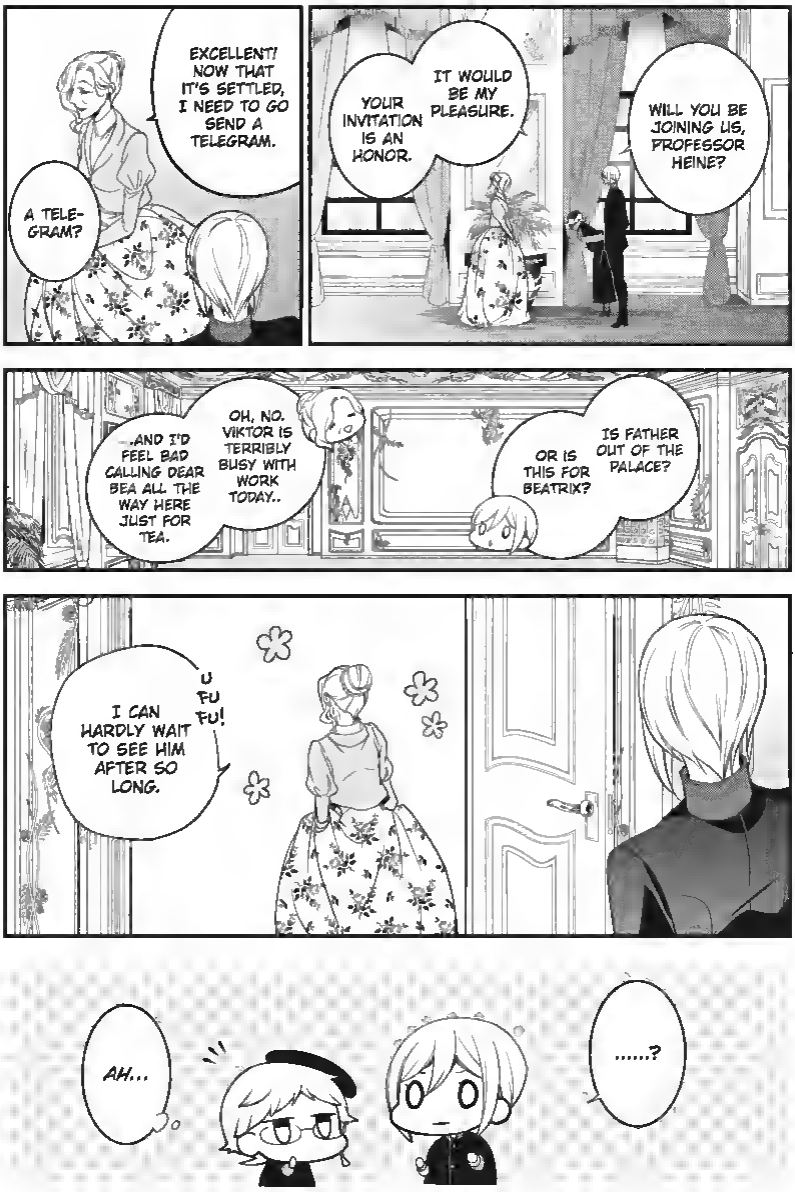
The White Lily and the Black Prince


A FEW HOURS EARLIER...
WHAT!? A TEA PARTY!?
BEAM
YES!
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A TEA PARTY THIS AFTER-NOON?
IT WOULD BE WITH FAMILY AND PROFESSOR HEINE.


...GONE FROM THE PALACE FOR SO LONG, IT'S SUDDENLY SO LONESOME HERE...
WITH KAI AND BRUNO AND LICHT...
...AND ADELE HAS HER LESSONS.
I HAVE MY OFFICIAL DUTIES...
WE DON'T GET TO HAVE TEA TOGETHER VERY OFTEN, YOU KNOW?
UUHN!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, QUEEN MOTHER, YOUR HIGHNESS.
LIKE MOTHER, LIKE SON...
...WE MUST COME TOGETHER AND MAKE SOME CHEER. THE MORE THE MERRIER!
I THINK LONELY TIMES LIKE THIS ARE PRECISELY WHEN...
WELL, OF COURSE, I'M NOT NOT LONELY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
.....

BUT I'M OKAY, YOU KNOW!
I GUESS THEY ALL HAVE THEIR... GOALS? SO I KNOW THEY HAD TO LEAVE.
AND BESIDES, DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO TOLD ME TO BE GOOD.
BUT I'D LOVE TO HAVE A TEA PARTY!
LATELY, I'VE ONLY HAD TEA WITH HEINE. I'M BORED TO DEATH OF IT!
OH REALLY, NOW?


OH, LEONHARD... WHAT A STRONG BOY YOU ARE.
UU!
LIKE MOTHER, LIKE SON...
YOU'RE A GOOD BOY
...
AAAH!
I-I DID NOT! DON'T TELL HER!
GLANCE
GLANCE
SNEAK
...AS IF TO SAY, "I DON'T WANT TO EAT ALONE"?
EXACTLY WHO KEPT LOOKING AT ME...
HMPH!

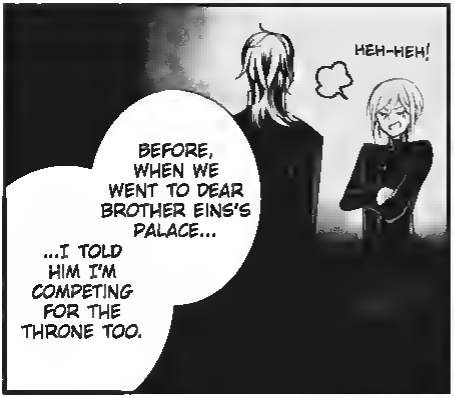

EXCELLENT! NOW THAT IT'S SETTLED, I NEED TO GO SEND A TELEGRAM.
A TELE-GRAM?
WILL YOU BE JOINING US, PROFESSOR HEINE?
IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE.
YOUR INVITATION IS AN HONOR.
IS FATHER OUT OF THE PALACE?
OR IS THIS FOR BEATRIX?
OH, NO. VIKTOR IS TERRIBLY BUSY WITH WORK TODAY..
...AND I'D FEEL BAD CALLING DEAR BEA ALL THE WAY HERE JUST FOR TEA.
U FU FU!
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE HIM AFTER SO LONG.
AH...
.....?

AND IN THE PRESENT...
ZOOM
...!

.....
WHY...?

BECAUSE HE IS FAMILY, I SUSPECT.
SMOOTH
WHY IS ELDEST BROTHER HERE!?

I DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD COME!
BUT HE'S ALWAYS WORKING.
I-I KNOW THAT.


HEH-HEH!
BEFORE, WHEN WE WENT TO DEAR BROTHER EINS'S PALACE...
...I TOLD HIM I'M COMPETING FOR THE THRONE TOO.

ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT SEEING YOUR BROTHER?
YOU PREVIOUSLY CONFESSED THAT HE SCARES YOU.
W-WELL, IT'S MORE THAN THAT.

I FEEL LIKE I NEED TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE THING AT WHICH I CAN BEAT DEAR BROTHER EINS...
.....

HE MIGHT MAKE FUN OF ME AND SAY I'VE NOT GROWN ONE BIT SINCE THEN...
ARE YOU A COMPLETE DUNCE?
HA!
HE HAS QUITE THE GRUDGE AGAINST HIS BROTHER FOR CALLING HIM A DUNCE TO HIS FACE...
H
RRRG!

EINS, YOU DIDN'T NEED TO BE WORKING, DID YOU?
SWEETS! ♡ SWEETS! ♡
Y-YOU DIDN'T NEED TO TELL ME THAT. I WAS ALREADY GOING TO!
GOOD-NESS.
HAVE SOME SWEETS.
IT WILL BE A SHAME IF YOU ARE TOO OCCUPIED BY THAT TO BE ABLE TO ENJOY THIS WONDERFUL TEA PARTY.
NO.
I TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING IN THE MORNING BEFORE WE ARRIVED.
.....
...COUNT ROSENBERG.
AN INVITATION FROM HER HIGHNESS THE QUEEN MOTHER IS A SPECIAL OCCASION.
AREN'T WE LUCKY WE WERE ABLE TO COME?

IS PRINCE KAI'S MONTH-LONG TRAINING TRIP FOR MILITARY SCHOOL A MERE COINCIDENCE?
HE IS ALSO A FRIEND OF DOCTOR DMITRI FROM OROSZ, WHO INVITED PRINCE BRUNO TO STUDY ABROAD NOT ONCE BUT TWICE...
HE PLAYED AN ACTIVE HAND IN HELPING PRINCE LICHT LIVE IN TOWN.
THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS I WOULD LIKE TO ASK HIM.
HOWEVER, THE QUEEN MOTHER'S FRIENDLY TEA PARTY...
...IS NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PLACE FOR THAT.
!!!

!
SMILE
ニコッ
I'M RELIEVED YOU'RE HERE, PROFESSOR HEINE.
...HOW TRUE.
...I'M AFRAID I WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO NERVOUS TO EVEN MOVE.
WHILE I'M TRULY GRATEFUL TO BE ALLOWED A SEAT HERE...
...IF IT WERE ONLY I AMONG ROYALS...
NN~!
NH~!

DESPITE YOUR EARLIER WORDS, YOU SEEM TO BE INCREDIBLY COMFORTABLE.
I'LL REFILL YOUR TEACUP AS WELL. WOULD YOU LIKE MILK AND SUGAR?
SWIFT
SINCE YOU ARE LITTLE, PRINCESS ADELE, SHALL I GET THE SWEETS FOR YOU?
YAAAY!
SWIFT
AGAIN, YOU ARE TREATING ME AS YOUNGER THAN I AM!
FUME
HERE YOU ARE.
SINCE YOU ARE LITTLE AS WELL, PROFESSOR HEINE, I'LL FILL YOUR PLATE FOR YOU.
AREN'T THEY YUMMY, PROFESSOR?
IT'S MY JOB.
HE KNOWS MY FAVORITES...? DID HE DISCOVER THEM WHEN THEY HOSTED ME AT PRINCE EINS'S PALACE? I HAVE THE FEELING THIS MAN ALWAYS GIVES ME THE RUNAROUND WITH HIS PROFESSIONAL SKILLS...
CHEW
CHEW
SWEETS HE PARTICULARLY LIKES

I SAY, SIR...!
PROFESSOR HEINE REMINDED ME OF OUR FAMILY DOG, SO I FELT AN AFFINITY WITH HIM.
WE'VE HAD A FEW CHANCE MEETINGS.
OH MY!
ERNST, WHEN DID YOU BECOME FRIENDS WITH PROFESSOR HEINE?
NO.
THE QUEEN MOTHER AND ADELE ARE HERE.
PRINCE EINS.
WILL YOU BE SMOKING TODAY?
WHEN WE LAST MET, YOU MENTIONED YOUR HIP WAS IN BAD CONDITION...
I'M QUITE FINE, THANK YOU.
YOUR HIGHNESS, IS YOUR HEALTH TROUBLING YOU AT ALL?

PHEW.
...IS THAT SO?
THANK YOU FOR REMEMBER-ING.
OH! IT'S MUCH BETTER NOW, DEAR.
CRUNCH CRUNCH
I'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH MY DUTIES FOR SOME TIME YET
MY! DON'T WORRY
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER REDUCING YOUR WORKLOAD
BE THAT AS IT MAY
HM? WHAT IS IT, HEINE? YOU AREN'T GOING TO EAT?
IT'S GOOD!
MY, MY...

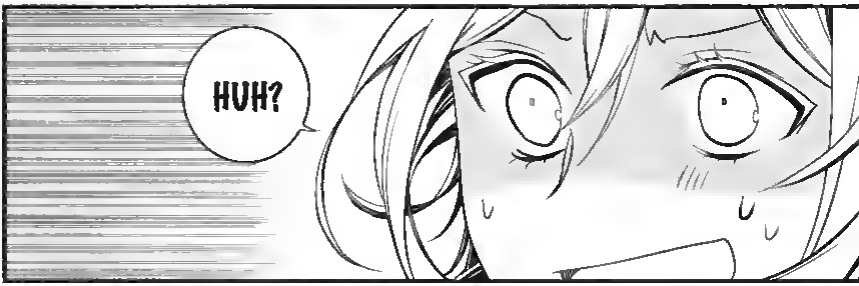
OH, YES.
HE'S A VERY KIND GRANDSON. I'M SO VERY PROUD OF HIM.
AH...
I WAS ONLY NOTICING PRINCE EINS'S ATTENTION TO HER HIGHNESS THE QUEEN MOTHER...
WHAT A NICE FAMILY.
.....
THAT IS EXCELLENT INDEED.
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, PRINCE LEONHARD?
...BUT YOU PRAISE DEAR BROTHER EINS SO EASILY.
NORMALLY, YOU DON'T PRAISE ME AT ALL...
POUT

JOLT
HAAH...
OH?
SO NORMALLY YOU EARN MARKS UNDESERVING OF PRAISE?
N-NO!
THE QUIZ THE OTHER DAY..
...JUST HAPPENED TO BE ALL ABOUT THINGS I'M BAD AT..
.....
PRINCE LEONHARD HAS BEEN APPLYING HIMSELF TO HIS STUDIES MOST ENTHUSIASTICALLY AS OF LATE.
PRAISE !?
YEAH!
WHEN I CAN DO MY HOMEWORK, I DO IT...!
HE PRAISED ME!
I EVEN MEMORIZE ONE VOCABULARY WORD FROM THE LANGUAGE OF FONSEIN EVERY DAY!
SEE? I'M WORKING HARD!
HE PRAISED ME!
HEH HEEEH!

SHOCK
EVEN A DUNCE CAN WORK HARD.
Y-YOU CALLED ME A DUNCE AGAIN!
NOW, NOW
.....
SMALL ACTIONS SUCH AS THOSE DON'T EVEN COME CLOSE TO TRULY WORKING HARD.
IF YOU'RE PLEASED WITH YOURSELF FOR ONLY WHAT YOU THINK IS YOUR BEST EFFORT, THEN YOU'RE STILL JUST A CHILD.
.....!

MUMBLE
...AND YOU'RE ALWAYS FROWNING LIKE YOU NEVER THINK ABOUT ANYTHING FUN, AND...
MUMBLE
TOO GROWN-UP, AND...
YOU'RE ONLY TWENTY-THREE. I THINK YOU'RE TOO GROWN-UP FOR YOUR AGE.
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
...THAT'S WHY YOUR FACE LOOKS EVEN OLDER THAN FATHER'S!

.....!!
?
.....
PFFT!
AHEM... FAMILY OR NO, IT'S RUDE TO SPEAK ILL OF ANOTHER'S APPEARANCE ...
PARTICULARLY IN HIS CASE...
HUH...? WHAT...? DID I...DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?



To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor

The Royal Tutor Chapter 53

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